THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The production of crude oil in the first quarter (April—June, 2002), of the current year 2002-03 was 8.17 million metric tonnes (MMT) as against the production of 7.62 MMT during the corresponding period last year (2001-2002). While the actual production during 2001-02 was 32.03 MMT, a target of 33.17 MMT has been fixed for 2002-03.

(b) The crude oil production by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in Gujarat has been increasing since the last few years as given below:

Year	Oil Production (MMT)
1999-2000	5.665
2000-2001	5.785
2001-2002	5.972

However, the highest ever oil production from Gujarat by ONGC was 6.363 MMT during 1995-96. As per the current projections, the trend of production in Gujarat of around 6 MMT per annum is likely to continue for the next 3 years.

(c) and (d) Crude oil imports have increase from 39.808 MMT in 1998-99 to 74.097 MMT in 2000-01. The reason for the higher crude oil imports is the increase in refining capacity in the country, from 62.24 MMT on 1.4.1998 to 112.54 MMT on 1.4.2001. With the increase in domestic refining capacity, the import of crude oil has gone up and the import of finished products has come down with value addition taking place domestically.

Indo-Iraq agreement on oil sector

2198. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement with Iraq to bolster trade ties *inter-alia* in oil sector, if so, the details of the agreement; and

(b) in what manner it will help the country in oil sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During the 15th session of the Indian-Iraqi joint commission for economic and technical cooperation held in Baghdad on 6th & 7th July, 2002, issues of mutual interest in the oil sector, relating to the upstream sector, downstream sector and supply of crude oil from Iraq were discussed. However, no agreement has been entered into.

Subsidy on LPG and Kerosene

2199. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided a flat rate of subsidy on LPG and Kerosene immediately;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the consumers will be benefited from this subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As per the Government decision on dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), domestic LPG and PDS kerosene will continue to be subsidised post APM. The subsidy on these products will be on a specified flat rate basis from 1st April, 2002 and the retail price will vary as per the price changes in the international market. The flat rates of subsidy have not been assessed as yet.

India's Share in Global Tourism

2200. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K.NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that India and China will be the toppers in travel sector;